

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 1, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-15 are rejected to by the Examiner. In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '976 patent (hereinafter "'976'") and U.S. Patent 6,048,071 (hereinafter "'071'"). Claims 1, 5-8 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '921 patent (hereinafter the "'921" patent) in view of '071.

The rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-15 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-8 and 10-15 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a low refractive index layer on the light guide panel having a second refractive index which is lower than the first refractive index, reflecting the light incident to the light guide panel on the border area...and a condensing device located between the lamp and the light guide panel, said condensing device reducing the difference between the first refractive index and the second refractive index." (claim 1). None of the cited references including '976, '071 and '921, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The Examiner alleges that '071 discloses this feature, however 071 discloses "a prism sheet" and a "diffusion plate", not a "condensing device reducing the difference between the first refractive index and the second refractive index" as recited in claim 1.


Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-15, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed..

Dated: August 1, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

George G. Ballas

Registration No.: 52,587

McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-7500

Attorneys for Applicant